



PE JC

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Upjacket 30 includes an inner tube, or buffer tube, 32 for receiving one of the optical fibers 12, 14. Positioned around inner tube 32 is a strength member 34, such as strands of aramid fiber. Such strength member 34 protects the optical fibers 12, 14 from damage, such as during tensile loading. Positioned around inner tube 32 and strength member 34 is an outer tube 36. Device 10 is used to allow breaking out of optical fibers 12, 14 from cable 16 into the individual upjackets 30. During use, the strength member 34 is crimped or otherwise mechanically joined to device 10, and an outer heat shrunk tubing or other mechanical attachment surrounds device 10, and the exposed ends of upjackets 30, and cable 16 to join the elements together. Loads are ~~transferred between~~ transferred between connector 100 and cable 16, though ~~strength~~ the strength members 34 and device 10, instead of through the optical fibers 12, 14.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

Front end 42 connects to the upjackets 30. In particular, each of first and second tubes 66, 68 includes a first tube outer diameter 70 and a first tube inner diameter 72. First tube inner diameter 72 is sized to receive inner tube 32 of upjacket 30. Inner tube 32 further receives one of optical fibers 12, 14 within inner tube 32. Tubes 66, 68 are offset from axis 46. Other spacings are possible, but a symmetrical spacing is preferred. As different numbers of tubes are provided, the spacings will vary in order to ~~accommodate~~ accommodate different numbers of optical fibers used with device 10.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Strength members 34 which extend past crimp ring 80 in the ~~present~~ present invention are believed to further assist with attachment of upjacket 30 and device 10 to cable 16. It is to be appreciated that the extending strength members 34 past crimp ring 80 is optional.